

HISTORY OF CHINA

HIST 262/2

LEC. AA

FALL, 2008

INSTRUCTOR: Martin Singer

OFFICE: LB-1033 (SGW Campus)

TELEPHONE: 514-848-2424 ext 2709

EMAIL: martin.singer@concordia.ca

CLASS HOURS: Mondays, 18:00-20:15 Room H820

OFFICE HOURS: Mondays, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM and by appointment

GRADUATE STUDENT MARKER: Andrew Welsch (ax2100@optonline.net)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an introduction to China's history from earliest times to the modern era. The first half of the course is devoted to traditional China and consists of a series of thematic lectures on China's political, philosophical/religious, social, economic, diplomatic and cultural traditions. The second half of the course focuses on China since 1800, with particular emphasis on the West and China; on the three stages of the Chinese revolution; and on the transformation of China since 1949.

COURSE WEBSITE:

The course website is accessible through your Concordia portal and is an integral part of the course. Students will find there both the course syllabus and lecture schedule that have been distributed in class and a list of topically arranged selected readings. As well, outlines and video versions of each week's lecture will be posted on the website several days after each lecture is delivered. Finally, the course website contains a message board for course-related matters.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Patricia Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook* (2nd edition, Free Press, 1993)

Patricia Ebrey, *Cambridge Illustrated History of China* (Cambridge University Press, 1999)

Both books are available in the Concordia Bookstore and both books are required reading.

EXAMINATIONS:

There are two written examinations in this course. A mid-term examination will be held on Monday October 20. A formal final examination will be scheduled during the December examination period. Both the mid-term and the final examinations will be in essay format with two essays required in each.

OPTIONAL PAPERS:

Some students may wish to do an optional paper in addition to the two examinations. They should look initially at the list of suggested reading topics that is posted on the course website. Those students who wish to pursue other topics should do so only after consultation with and approval from the instructor. Each student electing to do an optional paper is expected to read at least three books on the theme selected and to produce a short critical essay (maximum 10 pages) based on the readings. The optional essay must be computer printed and should be submitted no later than Monday November 24.

ACADEMIC CONDUCT:

Concordia University has very clear guidelines as to what constitutes academic misconduct, including but not limited to plagiarism, cheating, impersonation, falsification, multiple submission and/or theft. Students should familiarize themselves with the provisions of the “Code of Academic Conduct” including the penalties that apply. A summary of the Code, as well as a link to the full document, may be found on the History Department website at <http://history.concordia.ca/ungradcode.html>.

GRADING:

For those students who do not write the optional term paper, the grading distribution will be as follows: mid-term exam – 40%, final exam 60%. For those students who do write an optional paper, the grading distribution will be as follows: mid-term – 25%, paper – 25%, final – 50%. Students should consult <http://history.concordia.ca/ungradgrading.html> to familiarize themselves with the History Department’s grading norms for undergraduate courses.

SHAC:

Students of History Association of Concordia represents all undergraduate students registered in one or more history classes at Concordia. It organizes social and academic events; publishes the undergraduate journal *Historiae*; and runs a peer tutoring program. For information on volunteering, getting help with classes, getting published, or for upcoming events, check their website at: <http://alcor.concordia.ca/~shac/index.html> (or access through the History Department site), or stop by their office for free coffee (LB-620.2). They can be reached at shacconcordia@yahoo.com.

**HISTORY OF CHINA
SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS
FALL, 2008**

DATE: LECTURE TOPIC:

TRADITIONAL CHINA

[READINGS: Ebrey Sourcebook, selections 1-67; Cambridge History, chapters 1-8]

September 8	Geographical Context
September 15	Historical Framework
September 22	Philosophy and Religion
September 29	Government and Politics
October 6	Society and Economy
October 13	Foreign Relations/Culture [Thanksgiving Day/no class/internet lecture]
October 20	Mid-term Exam

MODERN CHINA

[READINGS: Ebrey Sourcebook, selections 68-100; Cambridge History, Chapters 9-11]

October 27	The West Comes to China
November 3	The Beginnings of the Chinese Revolution
November 10	The Nationalists: the Revolution Continues
November 17	The Communists: the Revolution Succeeds
November 24	The People's Republic of China, 1949-1976
December 1	The People's Republic of China Since 1976